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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The spring meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the Chemists' Club, 50 East Forty-first Street, New York City, on May 21. The session was called to order at 9 A. M. by President McClung. There were present also Messrs. Eigenmann, Ellery, Jones, Richtmyer, Stewart and Ward. Mr. Pegram was detained and arrived later. The minutes of the last session of the Executive Committee were reviewed and approved. The minutes of the Convention were also reviewed and approved.

The question of the scope of charter membership in new chapters was brought up and discussed at great length. At the conclusion of the discussion it was voted to adopt as the future rule of the Society the usual practise of the past in granting charters, namely (1) to take the list of signers to the original petition which had been laid before the Executive Committee and by virtue of their recommendation presented to the Convention and acted upon by that body, (2) to eliminate from that list the names, if any, of persons ineligible to membership by virtue of the provisions of the Constitution of Sigma Xi, (3) to include all members of Sigma Xi officially connected with the petitioning institution, (4) to drop the names of those persons who had left the institution, (5) to add those members of Sigma Xi who might have entered the institution before the engrossing of the charter, and finally (6) to add the names of those persons recommended by the group of petitioners as having allied themselves with the institution since the original list was prepared, who by significant research are conspicuously worthy of membership in accordance with the terms of the Constitution for the election of faculty members, viz: "Any professor or instructor of the institution who has shown *noteworthy* achievement as an original investigator in some branch of pure or applied science" (Art. III, § 4, a).

The Committee reviewed the petition from the Mayo Foundation for the granting of an active chapter in place of the Alumni Chapter already established in that institution. In connection with the discussion of the matter it was brought out, first, that according to the terms of the Constitution, charters are voted to individuals and not to institutions and that while no charter would be given to individuals in an institution where the standing of the institution did

not merit such action, yet the standing of the individuals is of great importance because they are to be charged with carrying out the conditions of the charter. It was brought out, second, that the fundamental object of a chapter was the promotion of research, and that in case of apparent conflict between different provisions of the Constitution this is the ultimate and all important object to be kept in mind. It was noted further that while at a previous meeting the Executive Committee voted that in its opinion two chapters should not be established in the same institution, and while the Mayo Foundation does constitute a legal and organic part of the University of Minnesota, yet the practical difficulties of distance, expense, loss of time, and complications of organization, incident to maintaining two sections of a single organization under the same control were such as to interfere with carrying out the principle in this instance. Furthermore, it seemed beyond question that the Mayo Foundation in its organization and activities fell distinctly under the provision of the Constitution favoring the establishment of chapters "at such research institutions as possess the same unrestricted rights of publication that exist in educational institutions, provided that no institution shall be considered unless its permanency is shown to be reasonably assured by private endowment or state support" and met fully the stipulations enumerated, therefore the Executive Committee voted to recommend to the Toronto Convention the granting of a charter for an active chapter at the Mayo Foundation. Inasmuch as the institution was discussed so fully last year when the petition for an alumni chapter was granted, the Committee felt that the preparation of a new printed petition was unnecessary.

The petitions of several groups of scientific workers were reviewed and considered in detail together with the series of publications submitted in support of the petitions. It was voted that these groups be asked to print formal petitions and that these be presented to the Convention with the request for action favorable to the establishment of the chapters, in each case with the limiting provision that the chapter shall elect undergraduates to associate membership only.

Formal petitions were also presented from several groups in institutions concerning which in the opinion of the Executive Committee sufficient information was not at hand. The Secretary was requested to communicate this action to the petitioners and it was

voted that in any event no further action should be taken in these cases before the meeting of the Executive Committee in June, 1922. It was felt that in accordance with the usual custom in the past a visit on the part of some member of the Executive Committee and a conference with the petitioners in person would probably be wise.

An informal report of conditions at certain other places showed that the petitions were not yet in satisfactory form and action would necessarily be delayed until some future date. It was the opinion of the Executive Committee that in most cases the organization and maintenance of a Sigma Xi Club would serve to demonstrate more clearly the justification for establishing a chapter at the institution. The secretary was directed to correspond with the persons interested concerning the advisability of maintaining a Sigma Xi Club to develop clearly the possibilities of the situation which were not adequately demonstrated by the information already at hand.

Recognizing the difficulties involved in the organization and maintenance of a Sigma Xi Club in a region where there are yet very few members of the Society although the number of research men may be very much larger, the Committee suggested that in such cases a scientific research club might serve the same purpose. The Committee voted to indicate that in its opinion the Society was distinctly favorable to the extension of its influence throughout the South wherever the situation seemed to insure that permanent interest in research and that continuous output of research publications which are demanded by the Constitution and by the action of the various Conventions as essential to the establishment of a Sigma Xi chapter.

The President reported that the National Research Council had voted to recognize Sigma Xi officially by appointing the president as an ex-officio member of the Executive Board.

The summary prepared to show the present extension of associate membership in the Society was presented together with list of orders for associate membership emblems. It was suggested that the Secretary should ask for data on the influence of the Society among undergraduates through the introduction of the associate membership plan.

A communication from the Missouri Chapter was read as follows:

"At our annual business meeting on March 24, 1921, the following resolution was passed:

"The Missouri Chapter believes that it should be made possible for a chapter to elect its associate members to active membership

when not in residence in less than five years. This resolution was the result of a discussion arising from the nomination of a man elected as an associate member last year who is now engaged in commercial work but who has also published the results of some work. It was felt that a man who has passed the probationary stage, as it were, and then continues to do good work should be raised promptly to the rank of an active member. The Missouri Chapter wishes this matter brought to the attention of the National Committee."

The Committee approved of the recommendation and yet on discussion saw that apparently an amendment to the Constitution would be necessary if this plan were to be put into effect. The Chapter was requested to present such an amendment for consideration at the next Convention.

The Secretary read correspondence he had had with the University of Nebraska chapter which submitted the following questions in regard to Associate Members:

1. Can an alumnus of one year's standing who is an associate member be made an active member upon the publication of some noteworthy piece of research? He is not connected with an institution at present.
2. What is the criterion for raising an associate member to an active member when in residence?
3. Can a member of the faculty who has the lowest rank such as instructor be made an associate member?

To this communication the Secretary replied as follows:

"The questions you raise are important. I should answer them as follows: *Can an alumnus of one year's standing who is an associate member be made an active member upon the publication of some noteworthy piece of research? He is not connected with an institution at present.* This is evidently a new question and one that must be decided in the light of the discussion concerning the associate membership and the reasons for establishing such a type of membership in the Society. The opinion has generally been expressed that the associate membership represented a trial stage and its object was to stimulate to further effort those who might be selected, with the view to making them members in the fullest sense. I should think accordingly that any associate member might be transferred to the standing and rank

of an active member when the individual had clearly fulfilled the conditions for active membership. The amendment of the Society's Constitution which created the class of associate members carefully avoided setting conditions or limitations upon the transfer and the opinion was freely expressed in the discussions which covered many years that the transfer should be as easy and simple as possible. Of course any individual chapter might have adopted by-laws limiting the transfer as to time and other conditions more narrowly than the Constitution. If the Nebraska Chapter has adopted such rules for its own guidance I presume that the Chapter must conform to them until the Chapter finds it wise to change them, and must make any change in the regular and ordinary manner as provided for in its own by-laws but the Constitution sets no limits upon the process, and, in my opinion, it would be desirable that no technical restraints be allowed to hamper the easy transfer of associate members as soon as they qualify clearly under the conditions for full membership. Since you state that the individual in question has actually published a worthy piece of research work I incline to the view that the conditions for full membership have been complied with. It would of course rest with your executive committee to determine the facts in the case.

"What is the criterion for raising an associate member to an active member when in residence?" Apparently only the actual completion of some piece of research. The Society has adopted no criteria for determining the time at which an associate member may become an active member, either when the individual in question is in residence or when he has gone into some other line of work. Here again the by-laws of the chapter might set special limitations. Thus one or two chapters have definitely voted that as soon as the associate member meets the conditions for active membership he may, on the recommendation of the executive committee or board of electors as the case may be, be transferred by vote of the chapter to active membership. I feel very clearly that the best interests of the chapter will be served by making this transition as simple as possible. If the research criterion alone is emphasized the attention of all will be most clearly centered upon research which is unmistakably the fundamental element in the situation. Personally, I should like to see the chapter advertise freely to all interested in its work that the only significant criterion for membership was research. While in

some cases it may be necessary for practical reasons to have rules of precedence that involve time and manner of election I think such factors should be so determined as to obscure as little as possible the primary factor, and if at any time these rules conflict with the primary condition I feel that the chapter should modify them so as to prevent such conflicts.

"Can a member of the faculty who has the lowest rank such as instructor be made an associate member?" The term faculty is used in such different senses in different places that an unqualified answer to your inquiry is difficult to make. Some chapters have construed the term "member of the faculty" to include all persons giving instruction and this evidently embraces graduate students who function as laboratory assistants, quiz masters, and helpers in the class work of the various departments. In a certain sense such persons have evidently a dual character, and the chapters indicated have required them to meet the conditions set for membership from the faculty. Other chapters have regarded such assistants as graduate students because, although engaged to a certain extent in teaching, they are at the same time registered as graduate students and are also of the age and experience of others enrolled in the graduate school as students. Under such a stipulation these persons would be subject to the constitutional requirements for graduate students.

If your question is intended to apply to members of the faculty in the stricter sense I should think that the constitutional amendment empowering chapters to elect associate members could not possibly apply to them for that amendment reads as follows:

Article III, section 7. When a chapter elects to have associate members, the following and no other shall be eligible to associate membership in that chapter:

(a) Any graduate student who has shown marked excellence in one or more departments of pure or applied science.

(b) Any undergraduate student who has completed the required work of the first three years and who has shown marked excellence in one or more departments of pure or applied science.

If on the other hand the persons you have in mind are at the same time graduate students and teaching assistants it might be possible to consider electing them to associate membership provided the other stipulations of the amendment quoted are complied with."

The Executive Committee voted to approve the reply of the Secretary to the questions presented.

An inquiry was presented by the Missouri Chapter concerning the proper status for consideration by the chapter of a person who having been a member of the faculty in another institution, was now permanently a resident of the town and also a scientific worker in the institution and had been granted an honorary position on the staff of the institution in which the chapter was located.

In this case the Executive Committee was clear that such a person might be elected on the same constitutional basis as the ordinary member of the faculty at the University in question.

The special committee on the associate membership emblem reported that it had approved a price for the current year of \$2.75 for this emblem. The Committee was authorized to file with the manufacturing jewelers in place of a formal contract a signed statement, this to be continued in force until due notice is given and subject to change on due notice given by either of the parties.

A letter from Doctor B. E. Livingston, Permanent Secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was read asking for a full list of the membership with present addresses and it was felt that action could not be taken at the present time, but that through the activities of the Fellowship Committee a correct list would soon be in such shape that it could be furnished.

The question of frequent changes in the mailing list of the SIGMA XI QUARTERLY was considered and it was voted that such changes be made only at the expense of the individual or the chapter and that in accordance with previous custom mailing lists be filed by each chapter in the fall to cover the entire academic year. The Secretary was instructed to call the attention of chapter secretaries to the extremely high cost of making changes which necessitated this limitation upon the privilege. It was suggested that Professor Ellery write an article for the QUARTERLY on the increase in the expenses of the organization and the need of care in guarding costs at every point. It was further suggested that such a statement be included by the Secretary when sending notifications to the secretaries of the various chapters and be transmitted by the President also to the chapter presidents.

It was felt that there should be on the part of newly elected members some definite financial obligation to the National Society

and an amendment to the Constitution was accordingly proposed calling for the payment to the national treasury of a dollar from the initiation fee of every newly elected member; this amendment was to be formulated and presented by the Indiana Chapter.

The plans for the meeting of the Executive Committee next spring were brought up and discussed *in extensio*. It was voted not to adopt any definite system of rotation, but to arrange for the next meeting at Ithaca, New York, providing the Cornell Chapter should be favorable to this plan.*

The Secretary read the official invitation from the Royal Canadian Institute requesting that the mid-winter Convention of the Society be held in Toronto in 1921. He was instructed to express the appreciation of the Executive Committee and the Society for the invitation and to accept it in the name of the Society.

The question of the date of this Convention was then taken under discussion and it was voted that the Executive Committee should meet on Monday, December 26, at lunch and during the afternoon and that the Convention and dinner be held on Wednesday, December 28.

The President was instructed to keep in touch with the situation and to extend invitations to distinguished visitors from abroad to participate in the meeting of the Society on Wednesday and to be guests of the organization at the dinner on Wednesday evening. A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Ellery and Richtmyer, were requested to prepare the program. It was voted that the President should add to the list of distinguished guests such others as the sub-committee might designate at any future time.

After discussion of the Treasurer's report and communications from the various chapters and chapter officers it was suggested that data should be laid before the chapters indicating the appropriateness of the plan adopted by many of making some allowance for the expenses of chapter officers, especially the secretary. It was the definite opinion of the Executive Committee that no large organization and least of all Sigma Xi, standing for research, could justify itself in laying upon its officers a clerical burden which must neces-

* Since the meeting a cordial official invitation has been extended by the Cornell Chapter so that the plan will undoubtedly be carried out as outlined above.

sarily detract from the time that such officers would have to devote to research. It was clear that these burdens would be significant and the interference with research the more real if the necessary obligations were effectively discharged.

The report of the Fellowship Committee showed almost unanimous approval of the plan on the part of the members who had been sent the announcement of the scheme. A series of brief quotations from letters received was read (see page 42). The financial summary presented by the Treasurer demonstrated beyond question that sufficient funds were already at hand, that the success of the plan was assured and that the election of fellows should evidently be provided for immediately. It was accordingly voted to establish one or more fellowships for the year beginning September, 1921, at a total stipend not to exceed eighteen hundred dollars each. It was further voted that, as a sub-committee on fellowships for 1921-22, Messrs. Ellery and Richtmyer should after due consultation nominate to the Executive Committee some person or persons to be awarded Sigma Xi Fellowships for the coming year and should outline the precise terms under which the fellowships should be granted.

In order to advertise with good probability of securing the best possible material for these appointments it was voted that the authority to fix the exact stipend of these appointments for the coming year be referred with power to the sub-committee.

In view of the fact that provisions had already been made under direction of the National Research Council for fellowships in physics and chemistry during the next five years it was voted, that at least for next year, Sigma Xi will give preference to other sciences in making the awards of its fellowships. It was voted that the Ph.D. or its equivalent should be regarded as a prerequisite for appointment to the Sigma Xi fellowships, and it was felt that in advertising these fellowships some definite statement should be made concerning the source of the moneys which constitute the fellowship fund.

The Committee then discussed the establishment of an endowment fund for Sigma Xi fellowships and voted that donations to the amount of fifty dollars or more be accepted and invested permanently, and that the interest on such sums be regarded as the annual subscription of the donor to the Fellowship Fund.

The Committee discussed the question of the advisability of holding meetings of Sigma Xi members in attendance at various scientific

conventions. Among recent efforts to provide for such gatherings a meeting of this kind recently held at Rochester was reported. The plan to hold a lunch, dinner, or other meeting under the auspices of Sigma Xi, was thoroughly approved and Professor Greene was specifically authorized to arrange for such a conference in connection with the meeting of the Society of Mechanical Engineers. This general approval was referred to the sub-committee on Fellowship to care for the details and to assist in carrying out the scheme.

It was voted that the question of somewhat regular visits to the chapters by the officers of the National Society be made a special order of business for discussion at the meeting of the Executive Committee in Toronto.

The report of the Membership Committee, as presented by Professor Richtmyer, emphasized the view that it was of great importance for the Society to make such changes as would yield the best results in enlisting in its work the present so-called non-active members, i. e., those not resident at institutions having chapters of the Society. In order to reach a clear basis for the readjustments necessary certain preliminary votes were taken by the committee, subject to later revision on the basis of the bearing they might have when the entire plan had been formulated. Under this stipulation it was voted to recommend that the Society consist only of members and associates: second that chapter members and associates should be distinguished from general members and associates, the distinction to be made on a functional basis; third, that chapter functions remain as before; further that the general group participate in the national Convention and in such other activities of the general Society as the encouragement of research through the fellowship movement, through conferences at scientific meetings, through Sigma Xi Clubs and through such other activities as do not infringe on the rights and privileges of the active chapters. It seemed advisable that the general group should have at least one representative on the Executive Committee, the representation from the active chapters being then four elective members on that Committee. It was pointed out that the membership on the Executive Committee was now divided in exactly that proportion.

In the organization of the general group it was felt that this member of the Executive Committee might reasonably be the chairman of that group, and that further representation at the general

Convention should be selected in the first instance by the Convention itself, this representation to form a sub-committee of five in charge of the group. After appointment one member of this group might well retire annually to assure continuity of operation for the activities undertaken. It was felt that the formal organization of the general group might wisely proceed slowly in order to avoid embarrassing the movement by complication of machinery which would tend to retard action rather than further the interests involved.

It was further voted that in the opinion of the Executive Committee the contributions of the general group should be devoted to the Fellowship Fund and such necessary expenses as were involved in carrying on the work. It was finally voted that in the opinion of the Executive Committee the groups need not be mutually exclusive, but that any individual might be allied with both groups in furthering the general interests of the Society.

The Secretary was instructed to see that the various amendments to the Constitution were put in form for legal consideration at Toronto and that notices should be sent to the various chapters in accordance with the terms of the Constitution.

The Executive Committee requested the Secretary to express to the Chemists' Club its sincere thanks for the facilities afforded for holding the meeting at the Club.

Adjourned.

HENRY B. WARD, *Secretary*

[A brief record of this meeting was printed in *Science*, n. s. 54:45, July 15, 1921.]